

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-09 /124 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 19

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TAGS: GATT ETRD

SUBJ: TNC PREPARATIONS

1. WHILE A NUMBER OF MAJOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE MTN(E.G. JAPAN, AND CANADA) ARE APPARENTLY WILLING TO SEE THE PRESENT TNC SUB-GROUP STRUCTURE, AND PARTICULARLY THE EXISTENCE OF THE 3(E), GROUP, CONTINUE IN THE NEXT STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, IT DOESN'T APPEAR BY ANY MEANS CERTAIN THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL INSIST ON
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THE EXCLUSIVE TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE 3(E) GROUP.

2. ACCORDING TO EC MEMBER COUNTRY DELEGATES IN GENEVA, THE GENERAL QUESTION OF HOW TO STRUCTURE THE MTN WORK IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND, THE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF WHETHER AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE EXCLUSIVELY DEALT WITH IN ONE GROUP, HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE MOST RECENT 113 COMMITTEE MEETING. THIS QUESTION, WE ARE TOLD, IS TO BE DECIDED BY THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN ONE OF THE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

3. WE LEARNED FROM GERMAN AND UK SOURCES THAT THERE IS NO UNANIMITY IN THE COMMUNITY ON THIS POINT. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES THE FRENCH WILL MOST PROBABLY CONTINUE TO INSIST ON A SPECIAL GROUP HAVING EXCLUSIVE COMPETENCE FOR AGRICULTURE. HOWEVER, THE GERMANS AND THE UK REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THAT THE 3(E) GROUP, AS PRESENTLY ORGANIZED, WOULD FROM A PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW NOT BE SUITABLE TO DEAL WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO GERMAN SOURCES, SEVERAL MEMBER STATES HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE SETTING UP OF A GROUP EXCLUSIVELY RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURE ALSO ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE WORK OF SUCH A GROUP COULD BE DOMINATED BY THE LDC'S IF THE LATTER INSIST, AS IS LIKELY TO BE THE CASE, THAT AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO THEM OTHER THAN THOSE CLEARLY DEFINED AS TROPICAL PRODUCTS, RECEIVE SPECIAL TREATMENT.

5. SUCH DEMANDS ON THE PART OF THE LDC'S WOULD INVOLVE ADDITIONAL CLAIMS FOR COMMUNITY CONCESSIONS (FOR INSTANCE FOR OLIVE OIL-A POLITICALLY VERY SENSITIVE ITEM IN ITALY-OR FOR CERTAIN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES BUT ALSO FOR TEMPERATE ZONE PRODUCTS SUCH AS SUGAR AND RICE WIDELY GROWN IN THE LDC'S).

6. ALSO, ACCORDING TO OUR INTERLOCUTORS, NEITHER, THE FRG NOR THE UK WOULD WISH TO SEE A FURTHER DELAY IN THE MTN WORK DUE TO A NEW STALEMATE ON THE QUESTION OF STRUCTURING THE WORKING GROUPS. THEY WOULD THEREFORE ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION ON THIS POINT FLEXIBLE.

7. WE BELIEVE THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD TAKE THESE FACTS INTO ACCOUNT WHEN FORMULATING THE US POSITION FOR THE NEXT TNC MEETING.
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8. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MIZOGUCHI OF JAPANESE DELEGATION RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE DESIRABLE TO SELECT CERTAIN TOPICS ON WHICH TO ATTEMPT REACH FINAL AGREEMENT BY END OF 1975. HE CONSIDERED THAT OTHERWISE THERE WAS RISK THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD GET OFF TO SLOW START WITH LITTLE REAL PROGRESS BEFORE 1977. THIS WOULD LEAD TO SLACKENING OF HIGH LEVEL INTEREST, AND REDUCE EFFECTIVENESS OF NEGOTIA-

TIONS IN WARDING OFF PRTECTIONIST PRESSURES. WE SAID IDEAS SUCH AS THIS COULD BE EXPLORED AT FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT FOCUSING ON ONLY CERTAIN TOPICS, I.E. TRYING TO CONSTRUCT MINI-PACKAGE, AND LEAVING OTHERS FOR LATER MIGHT IN FACT LEAD TO THOSE UNFAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS THIS IDEA WAS AIMED AT AVOIDING. WE ALSO POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON WHICH ASPECTS SHOULD RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION. IN RESPONCE TO OUR QUERY WHICH TOPICS HE THOUGHT SHOULD GET PRIORITY ATTENTION, HE INDICATED HE DID NOT HAVE ANY VERY PRONOUNCED VIEWS, BUT DID MENTION SUBSIDIES/COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AS ONE POSSIBILITY. ABRAMS

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